

# Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION

## **Visit to The Military Intelligence Museum and the Medmenham Collection at Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire, SG17 5PR, Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2005.**

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This visit has been organised by Tony and Alice Smith.

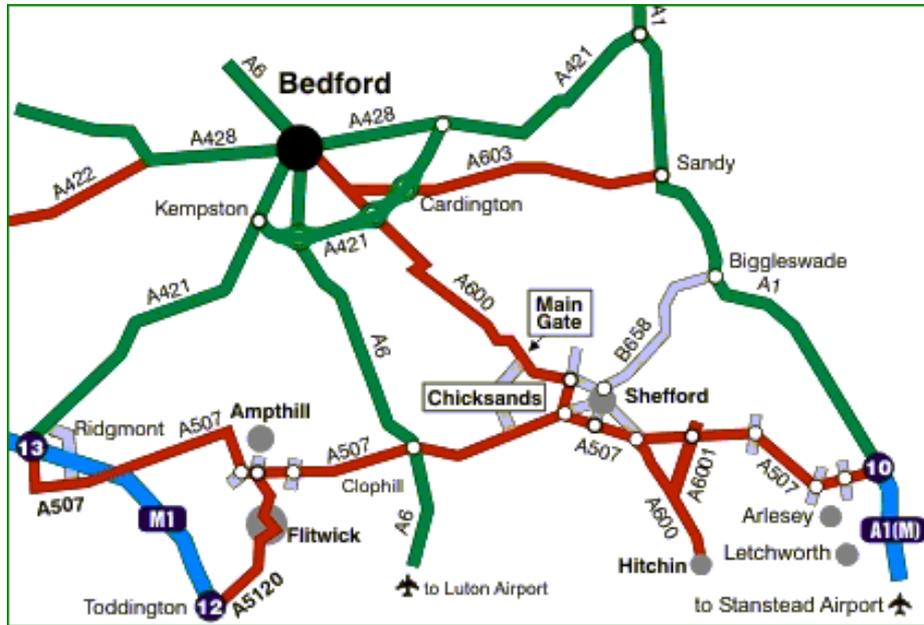
Chicksands is the Defence Intelligence and Security Centre (DISC) and is the home of The Military Intelligence Museum, which comprises the Intelligence Corps Museum and the Medmenham Collection of Photo-Reconnaissance and Aerial Photography. In World War II Chicksands was one of the listening stations connected with Bletchley Park, and in the Cold War period it was a U.S. Air Force listening station. The museum has existed since 1997 but is now undergoing major expansion.

We shall be visiting both parts of the museum with tours guided by experts in the two fields. The Intelligence Corps Museum features the stories of individual characters involved in military Intelligence from Robert Baden-Powell to the present day and has a wide range of exhibits ranging from biscuit-box radios to the Belsen Camp Commandant's typewriter and Heinrich Himmler's razor. The Medmenham Collection has a fascinating range of historic equipment used in aerial photography and photogrammetry, including an original Wild A5 3-D Plotter in course of restoration. Some of these instruments can be tried out by visitors. Also on display is the BRIXMIS Collection showing surveillance activity in Cold War East Germany.

Chicksands is near Shefford between Bedford and Hitchin. There are trains from Kings Cross to Hitchin every 15 minutes. It is hoped there will be enough cars to transport train travellers from and to Hitchin and to Shefford for lunch. Since Chicksands is a military base, car numbers and names of all visitors must be supplied beforehand and photo-identification (driving licences or passports) must be shown on the day. Maximum number is 30. The cost is £3 pp to be donated to the museum. Note that there are currently no refreshment facilities at Chicksands.

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| 10.15-10.30 | Meet outside Hitchin Station; transport to Chicksands by car.  |
| 10.45       | Assemble at entrance to Chicksands Base to receive passes and await escort to Museum.                |
| 11.00       | Party will be divided in two for tours of the two parts of the museum (approximately one hour each). |
| 13.00       | Depart for Shefford.   |
| 13.15       | Lunch at White Swan Inn, Bedford Road, Shefford.   |

[www.army.mod.uk/intelligencecorps/chicksands.htm](http://www.army.mod.uk/intelligencecorps/chicksands.htm) for more information.



The grid reference for Chicksands is 12330/39770. Please indicate on the sign-up form if you are coming by train or car. **Car drivers should also provide their car registration number.**